

Jim Atkins
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January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

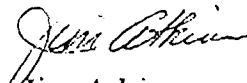
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am amongst those who believe that the Microsoft antitrust case should have never gone to trial. Nevertheless I would like you to support the settlement that was achieved in this case. Continuation of this case would be harmful to Microsoft, and needlessly cost the Justice Department money in a time of a dwindling government surplus.

Justice Department officials have approved and agreed to the settlement in this case. The settlement will make it easier for non-Microsoft software to be installed on Microsoft platforms, giving competitors a better opportunity to offer their products to the public. However for some opponents of the settlement this is not adequate. It must be kept in mind that special interests will pressure officials to have this case re-opened.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my views on this issue. Once again I would like to stress to you my belief that this case has undoubtedly become protracted and should be terminated. Please back the settlement.

Sincerely,


Jim Atkins

cc: Representative Mel Watt